The OSG has investigated the matter and submitted its report as per the terms of reference to the Hon'ble Minister (WR) on 3rd July, 2006. The Hon'ble Minister (WR) submitted the Report to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd July, 2006. The decision taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 8th July, 2006 on the Report of OSG was filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India along with the Report of the OSG on 10th July, 2006, as per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its Order dated 8th May, 2006 in the matter of Civil Writ Petition No. 328 of 2002.

The Supreme Court of India heard the matter on 10th July, 2006. The Court directed the parties to file their response to the Report within three weeks and replies thereto within three weeks thereafter. The case has been listed for September, 2006. Meanwhile, directions have been issued to Government of Madhya Pradesh to expedite the works on the Resettlement and Rehabilitation sites and to take measures as directed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, raising of the height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam beyond 90 metres will be only *pari passu* with the implementation of the relief and rehabilitation and on the clearance by the relief and rehabilitation Sub-Group. As per the status of Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) as on 7.4.2006, 31,500 Project Affected Families likely to be under impact of submergence due to raising the dam height upto EL 121.92 m pertaining to the State of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have been resettled. Out of 31,500 PAFs, 4726 families belong to Gujarat, 3452 families to Maharashtra and 23,322 families to Madhya Pradesh.

Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal

2712. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tribunal was set up in 1998 to resolve the dispute between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and other concerned Sates over sharing of the Cauvery river water; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and when the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal is likely to submit its final report?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UP-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) The Cauvery Water disputes Tribunal (CWDT) was constituted on June, 2, 1990 for adjudication of the water disputes relating to inter-State river Cauvery and river valleys thereof emerging from the letter of Government of Tamil Nadu of July, 1986. The report and decision of the

CWDT under Section 5(2) of Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 is reserved as per order of CWDT dated July 27, 2006.

Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal

2713. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) by when, the final verdict of Cauvery Tribunal on Cauvery river dispute is likely to be pronounced;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government will be pretty serious to implement the final verdict of Cauvery Tribunal as opined by him in Tamil Nadu during his visit in February; and

(c) if so, whether Government have not executed the Interim Award of Cauvery Tribunal if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) The report and decision of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) under Section 5(2) of Inter-State River Disputes Act, 1956 is reserved as per Order of CWDT dated July 27, 2006.

(b) and (c) Interim order passed by CWDT in June, 1991 is a decision of the tribunal and the decision of a Tribunal after publication in official gazette has the same force as an order or the decree of the Supreme Court and becomes final and binding on parties to the dispute and is required to be given effect by them.

Legislation on conservation of water

†2714. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's present water policy is promoting the companies engaged in water trade;

(b) whether it is also a fact that multinational companies are making efforts for the enactment of legislation regarding ownership of ground water of the country;

(c) if not, the details of the legislation enacted to check reckless use of water in the country; and

(d) the details of efforts being made by Government for conservation of water or its recharging and State-wise achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Water being a state subject, necessary action to enact legislation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.